

minimum age retirement. Currently, the retirement system is overfunded. The long-term liability will grow but any time you enhance the retirement benefits you will increase the unfunded liability. We currently ask officers to put in 8 percent of their retirement, the state puts in a matching 8 percent, and, indeed, if the long-term liability changes to the point where it's unfunded to the point that we can't meet the obligations, we will...may, perhaps, at some point down the line have to ask Patrol officers to kick in more money. But, currently, the system is fully funded 115 percent so we're not talking an immediate impact, long term. There may be an impact but I think it's something that, as we look at retirement benefits, particularly when we are talking about letting go of some State Patrol officers through budget cut-backs, it's a legitimate concern that we look at offering comparable benefits to these officers who are offered similar benefits in other states, and would recommend that you approve the return to Select File. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, members of the body, it's probably too quick after the last bill for me to object to the process of amending bills on Final Reading so I won't raise that point. I do have two or three questions about the contents of the amendment, however. Number one, I notice language in here about mandatory retirement upon attaining the age of 60 years. Senator Fisher, is that a new standard, something new we're putting in the statute, or has that always been there and this is just a new way of stating it?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Senator Withem, that's been...that's been in the statute all along, age 60 was the mandatory retirement.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. And there's no problems with age discrimination by placing a mandatory retirement in occupations such as this?

SENATOR FISHER: Not to my knowledge.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. Another question. Somebody pointed out to me that length of service shall also include credit for time